

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 148945
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02
/064 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FCOOK

-----036621 130615Z /13

R 122200Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 148945

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 148945

BRUSSELS FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 12, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

Q: WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPAND ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
ANALYSIS OF WHAT MR. CASTRO REPORTEDLY TOLD YOUR INTEREST
SECTION CHIEF?

A: WELL, QUITE FRANKLY, NO. I MEAN WE'RE NOT GOING TO
COMMENT ON THE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 148945

Q: WHY? WHEN THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT CASTRO HAD KNOWN
ABOUT THE KATANGAN INVASION AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP
IT -- THAT CAME SUBSEQUENT TO LANE'S REPORT -- WAS THE
PRESIDENT AWARE OF THAT OR WAS HE JUST CONSIDERING IT A
LIE?

A: I HATE TO SPEAK FOR THE WHITE HOUSE ON THIS ONE. IT
IS MY GENERAL FEELING, AS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY WHITE
HOUSE SPOKESMEN AT ONE LEVEL OR ANOTHER, THAT THE
PRESIDENT FELT THAT THE RECORD OF CUBAN VERACITY IN THIS
AREA WAS SUCH TO CALL ON THE DOUBT TO ALMOST ANY ASSURANCES

THEY MIGHT BE GIVING IN THAT REGARD.

Q: ON AFRICA, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT RHODESIAN
RAID OR ANY ANALYSIS OF IT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS?

A: WELL, SIMPLY WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS WE RECEIVED
ON THE WEEKEND SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA HELD BY THE FRONT LINE
IN LUANDA. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING, IN THE DAYS AHEAD,
WITH OUR WESTERN ALLIES AND WITH OTHER CONCERNED
PARTIES, THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN ON NAMIBIA.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OR
REFUTATION OF THE STATEMENT BY MR. CASTRO THAT HE ATTEMPTED
TO STOP THE INVASION OF SHABA?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE ON IT. DO YOU WANT TO
PHRASE A QUESTION THAT I COULD ANSWER?

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY INFORMATION WHICH
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 148945

WOULD TEND TO SHOW WHETHER OR NOT CASTRO ATTEMPTED TO
DISSUADE THE ANGOLANS OR THE KATANGANS FROM THE RAID INTO
SHABA?

A: I THINK, CLEARLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS SUGGESTED, AND
OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED, THEY DID
NOT.

Q: WELL, THEY DIDN'T ADDRESS IT UNTIL NOW. WE HADN'T
ANY IDEA THAT CASTRO HAD ASSERTED THAT.

A: YES, THAT'S TRUE. AND ALL I'M SAYING IS I BELIEVE
THAT THE PRESIDENT WEIGHED ALL THE INFORMATION HE HAD,
WHICH OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES CABLES WHICH GET TO HIM
OCCASIONALLY AHEAD OF THE NEWSPAPERS AND WHICH HE
LOOKED AT AND MADE ON THE BASIS OF HIS EVIDENCE -- WHICH
INCLUDED THESE ASSERTIONS.

Q: WELL, I'M SURE HE DID WEIGH EVERYTHING. WHAT
I'M ASKING IS: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY INFORMATION
WHICH TENDS TO SHOW WHETHER OR NOT CASTRO DID INTERCEDE
IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF THAT INVASION?

A: IT IS MY OWN BELIEF THAT THE PRESIDENT, ON THE BASIS
OF THE INFORMATION HE HAS, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT.

Q: THE QUESTION IS: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY
INFORMATION WHICH TENDS TO SHOW WHETHER OR NOT CASTRO
ATTEMPTED TO HEAD OFF THE INVASION OF SHABA?

A: WHILE I AM NOT SURE OF WHAT THE ANSWER WILL BE TO
THAT KIND OF A QUESTION, I WILL TAKE IT AND SEE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 148945

Q: NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A WEEK OF BRIEFINGS AND
LEAKS FROM THE HILL ABOUT THE EVIDENCE ON THE CUBAN
INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA INVASION, DOES THE STATE DEPART-
MENT HAVE ANY PLANS NOW TO MAKE PUBLIC ANY OF THE
INFORMATION AND THE DOCUMENTATION TO LET THE GENERAL PUB-

LIC KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS?

A: UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENED WHILE I WAS GONE THE END OF LAST WEEK, I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY.

Q: WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT WHEN CASTRO TALKS ABOUT WHAT THE CUBANS ARE DOING IN AFRICA, THIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BELIEVE HIM; IS THAT RIGHT?

A: NO. I'M NOT GOING TO SAY WE NEVER BELIEVE ANYBODY ANY TIME ON THIS SUBJECT. WE FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE --

Q: TO SHUTTLE BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO QUESTIONS, YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT PLANS TO MAKE PUBLIC ANY OF THIS MATERIAL ON THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.

A: YES.

Q: HAS THIS SORT OF GONE BY DEFAULT OR HAS THERE BEEN ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION WHETHER THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE TOLD MORE DIRECTLY THAN JUST LETTING IT LEAK OUT FROM VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS? HAS IT BEEN CONSIDERED HERE WHETHER YOU SHOULD SERVE, AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST, AS A CONDUIT FOR PUTTING OUT CIA INTELLIGENCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE?

A: I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO INTO INTERNAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS TO RELEASE A

SANITIZED VERSION OF THE INFORMATION THAT'S GONE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 148945

HILL.

Q: YOU SAID THAT THE CUBANS' RECORD OF VERACITY IS NOT GOOD IN THE AREA, AND THEN YOU DEFINE THE AREA AS THE SHABA INCIDENT AND THE ETHIOPIAN INVOLVEMENT.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE INFORMATION NOW THAT WE HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE THAT THE CUBANS ARE INVOLVED IN COMBAT IN ERITREA, AND SO FORTH?

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: A NUMBER OF AFRICAN LEADERS WHO ARE NORMALLY OUR FRIENDS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME MISGIVINGS ON WHAT THE WEST IS UP TO IN AFRICA.

IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO GOING AROUND AND TALK- TO THEM AND TRYING TO MAKE A CASE WITH THEM FOR WHAT WE ARE DOING.

A: I THINK YOU CAN BE VERY SURE THAT WE HAVE THROUGH OUR NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IN AFRICA, AND THAT THAT EFFORT WAS NOT A ONE-SHOT ONE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE DOING THAT.

Q: IS THERE ANY KIND OF COORDINATION OF THIS EFFORT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE REST OF THE WESTERN POWERS WHO ARE ALSO UNDER CRITICISM FOR WHAT IS GOING ON? IS THIS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE DOING ALL ON OUR OWN, TRYING TO EXPLAIN FRANCE TO TANZANIA?

A: I THINK I HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS I CAN ON THIS ONE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 148945

Q: HAS THE SECRETARY YET COMPLETED HIS STUDY OF WHAT LEGISLATION THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE ON AID PROGRAMS?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: JULES NYERERE, IN HIS STATEMENT ON THURSDAY SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THE CUBANS, AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE THE EVIDENCE, HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHABA INVASION.

HAVE WE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO BRIEF HIM AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS ON THE KIND OF MATERIAL THAT IS BEING GIVEN TO THE HILL, OR ARE WE TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM WITH SOME OF THIS INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL?

A: HENRY, I DON'T THINK WE ARE USING OUR INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL IN SUCH BRIEFINGS.

I THINK THIS IS A REITERATION OF OUR VIEWPOINT WHICH WE HAVE TO SAY IS BASED UPON THE KIND OF MATERIAL WE SHOWED TO THE PEOPLE ON THE HILL.

Q: ARE WE ADDRESSING THE OAU AT ALL, OR IS THIS JUST ON A BILATERAL COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS?

A: WELL, WE HAVE NO PLANS THAT I KNOW OF TO BE PRESENT AT THE OAU. THERE IS A CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE OAU WHO, I THINK, YOU CAN SAFELY BELIEVE HAS BEEN GIVEN OUR VIEWPOINT ON THE SITUATION.

Q: ABOUT OUR CONTACTS WITH THE AFRICANS. IS ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA? THAT SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY EXCEPTION, OR ONE OF THE FEW EXCEPTIONS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCED DESIRE TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THAT?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 148945

A: I DON'T KNOW, SO I WILL TAKE IT.

Q: AND I WONDER, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THIS WEEKEND'S SUMMIT MEETING OF FRONT-LINE STATES WHICH IS TAKING PLACE, OR WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LUANDA, WITH THE ROLE THAT PRESIDENT NETO IS PLAYING IN IT, HAS THIS BEEN A HANDICAP IN OUR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION, NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN LUANDA AND TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH NETO? -

A: I WILL TAKE THAT AS PART OF THE GENERAL QUESTION.

Q: ONE, DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS THAT NETO IN ANGOLA IS DISARMING THE KATANGESE COMING BACK FROM SHABA PROVINCE?

A: OBVIOUSLY WE THINK THAT SUCH A MOVE, IF IT WERE AS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP, AND WOULD CLEARLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF BRINGING STABILITY TO THE REGION.

Q: NOW, IN THE SAME CONNECTION, HAS THERE BEEN ANY EFFORT BY THE UNITED STATES TO PERSUADE MOBUTU TO STOP AIDING THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT REBELS FIGHTING AGAINST THE REGIME IN ANGOLA?

A: WE ARE, NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING WHICH WOULD REPRESENT ACROSS-BORDER ATTACKS FROM ANY DIRECTION.

Q: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF ATTACKS.

A: WE ARE, IN THAT RESPECT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE ANY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 148945

KIND OF FACTORING ON THIS, I.E., OUR EQUIPMENT, OUR MONEY, AND THE LIKE -- HAVE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN A NUMBER OF QUARTERS MADE IT CLEAR, AND FEEL SURE THAT OUR DESIRES IN THIS RESPECT HAVE BEEN HONORED, THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE OUR EQUIPMENT OR OUR MONEY USED IN THAT WAY, I.E., HELPING THE FORCES IN ANGOLA.

Q: WELL, IT IS MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT, THOUGH. HAVE WE USED OUR EQUIPMENT AND OUR MONEY TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT DOES NOT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HOLDEN ROBERTO OR JONAS SAVIMBI'S OPERATION IN ANGOLA?

A: AGAIN, AS FAR AS WHAT WE HAVE SAID SPECIFICALLY ON THIS SUBJECT TO ZAIRIAN LEADERS, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO

GET INTO. I HAVE GIVEN YOU WHAT OUR GENERAL PRINCIPLE IS.

Q: SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COMMITTEE HAVE APPARENTLY SENT A LETTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE ASKING THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION AND TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICY IN AFRICA. AND IT HAS, I GUESS, BEEN FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT VANCE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO DO THAT. IS THERE ANY PLAN IN THE WORKS TO EXPLAIN THOSE THINGS?

A: I AM CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS AN ANSWER GOING FORWARD TO THAT LETTER AT SOME POINT, FIRST.

INSOFAR AS A SCHEDULED APPEARANCE BY THE SECRETARY OR SOMEONE ELSE, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BEEN SET YET. THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE TO BE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN, MR. ZABLOCKI.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER RIGHT NOW. I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING YET. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE148945
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-0392
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806115/baaaeyxb.tel
Line Count: 349
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c72e4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2177117
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 12, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, RH, CG, CU
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c72e4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014